

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 35-42 are presented for consideration in lieu of claims 27-34, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 35 is the sole independent claim. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. For example, the Examiner's attention is direction to Figure 3 of the original disclosure, which shows radial bearing 611 and bearing 612. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated October 30, 2008.

Claims 27, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese patent document number 11-297256 to Takahashi in view of Japanese patent document numer 60-23941 to Oshio and U.S. Patent No. 4,854,444 to Iwamoto. Claims 28, 29 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takahashi document in view of the Oshio document and the Iwamoto patent as applied above to claim 27, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,040,431 to Sakino et al. Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takahashi document in view of the Oshio document and the Iwamoto patent as applied above to claim 27, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,858 to Asano. Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the the Takahashi document in view of the Oshio document and the Iwamoto patent as applied above to claim 27, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,457,864 to Chang et al. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest

many features of the present invention, as previously recited in these claims. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claim 35, for example, as presented, amplifies the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

Independent claim 35 recites a moving/guiding apparatus including a first movable body and a second movable body guided to move in intersecting directions, arranged at vertically different positions, and restrained in a vertical direction, first and second actuators for driving the first and second movable bodies in the intersecting directions, a third movable body guided to be movable on a surface plate in a moving direction of the first movable body and in a moving direction of the second movable body, and driven in two intersecting directions upon reception of forces from guide surfaces in a horizontal direction of the first and second movable bodies, first and second radial bearings for guiding one side of the first movable body and one side of the second movable body, respectively, and restraining the first and second movable bodies, respectively, in all directions, except for the movable direction, and third and fourth bearings for guiding the other side of the first movable body and the other side of the second movable body, respectively, and restraining the first and second movable bodies in the vertical direction.

Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest such features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claim 35.

The Examiner relies on the Takahashi document for teaching a moving/guiding apparatus and a moving/guiding method, which includes a first movable body which moves in a first direction, a second movable body which moves in a second direction intersecting the first direction, a third movable body guided to be movable on a surface, and driven in the first and second directions by receiving forces from the first and second movable bodies, a first actuator

for driving the first movable body and a second actuator for driving the second movable body.

The Examiner also considers the Takahashi document to teach a vacuum container which puts the first, second and third movable bodies in a vacuum.

The Examiner considers the Oshio document to teach first and second driving force transmission rods, with their longitudinal directions along first and second directions and connecting first and second movable bodies, and a moving element of first and second linear motors.

Still further, the Examiner considers the Iwamoto patent to teach that, because of the possibility of evaporation of a lubricant oil used when a movable body and moving elements are placed in a vacuum, the motor and the elements are placed outside a vacuum container, with a sealing mechanism for sealing the driving force transmission rods and the vacuum container.

The Examiner considers the Sakino et al. patent to show a moving/guiding apparatus and method that includes first and second bearings for one side of a first movable body and a second movable body, and restraining the movable bodies at least in vertical and horizontal directions, and third and fourth bearings for the other sides of the first and second movable bodies.

Still further, the Examiner considers the Asano patent to teach a static pressure bearing for guiding movable bodies.

In addition, the Examiner considers the Chang et al. patent to teach using ultrasonic linear motors to drive stages.

Applicant submits, however, that the cited, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claim 35, namely, the arrangement of the first movable body, the second movable body, the third movable body, the first and second actuators, the first and second radial bearings,

as well as the third and fourth bearings, which are provided to drive the movable bodies in preferred directions. Applicant submits, therefore, that the cited art should not be read to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claim 35.

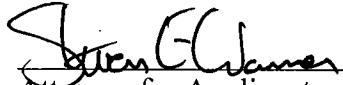
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 35, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Dependent claims 36-42 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 35. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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